

Rev. King's Killer Still On The Loose!

"But I got a rough statement made by a guy who saw the deal she made to kill King's room," he said. "The guy is not set by the deal he's ever got there."

Ray explained that the man—a former employee of the hotel—died the day after King was shot.

"He was up in one of the hotel rooms by himself, and his pistol accidentally fell out of his belt and hit the floor. The gun went off and he shot himself through the heart."

Kind of peculiar, wouldn't you think? asked Hays.

To add to the list of quibbles to King's death, Hays said even the judge died shortly after Ray pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 99 years.

The judge, Judge W. Preston Battle, accepted Ray's guilty plea on March 10, four days later, he died of a heart attack in his chamber.

The people were just too much of a coincidence.

"After all these people and daily developed heart trouble or even accident prone or someone arranged to help them," said Hays.

Battle never had a "heart problem in his life," added Hays, although he was a diabetic.

While Ray has asked for a new trial, there is doubt if he ever will get it.

For while Ray has asked for a new trial, the law has been interpreted to bar him from it.

The Tennessee Supreme Court has ruled that a convicted criminal cannot invalidate his prison sentence on grounds that he pleaded guilty because of faulty advice by his attorney.

Ray has been seeking a new trial on grounds that his second attorney, Percy Foreman of Boston, pressured him into pleading guilty.

A high legal source says that's why Ray's appeal for a new trial was turned down.

"There's still one more place to the people that needs an explanation," one source has said. "That's the strange death of King's brother."

The Rev. A. D. King was found drowned in a recently installed swimming pool at his Atlanta home on July 21, 1968.

"I don't say his death is linked to the others," said Hays. "But he is the one person who could have forced a full investigation."

"From several points of view there was a conspiracy. And Ray isn't the killer," Hays claims.

"I'm going to get my audience stirred by a court, void the investigation."

And perhaps Hays will. His role in Memphis, setting poison on Ray's public hearing and the role used in the attempt to find a place for him, may be the key to the case.

Says Ray Not Guilty



"Ray didn't kill Dr. King," says James T. Hays, the Memphis doctor who worked on the case for attorney Arthur Hanes.

James Earl Ray continues to fight for a new trial from his heavily guarded cell in the state penitentiary at Nashville.



This picture of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was taken while standing with his two closest advisers, the Rev. Jesse Jackson and Dr. Ralph Abernathy, as they stood on the porch of the Lorraine Motel.



The killer with a rifle pointed by a Memphis sight had a clear view of his target, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. As the bullet had been put down to give him a clear shot of the death of King.